



State Senator JOHN WATERMAN

District 39

House Democrats and the Homosexual Agenda

March 4 marked the end of the 113th session of the Indiana General Assembly. Not surprisingly, the session delivered a variety of punches aimed at knocking out opponents in a year when many officials face re-election. Unfortunately, House Democrats refused to fight fair and instead delivered an assortment of low blows.

Most Hoosiers, young and old, agree that protecting the institution of marriage should be a legislative priority. My office received nearly one hundred phone calls, emails, and letters from citizens of Senate District 39 in support of efforts to amend the constitution to make marriage only between a man and a woman. Conversely, we received fewer than 10 phone calls, emails, and letters in opposition.

Efforts to legitimize same sex marriage hurt the traditional institution of marriage and open the door to legal challenges in favor of polygamy and other outlandish behaviors. To address this attack on traditional marriage, Senate Joint Resolution 7 was introduced by Senator Brandt Hershman to amend the Indiana Constitution to define marriage and prevent recognition of same sex couples. I coauthored this measure and helped usher it through the Senate.

House Democrats blocked efforts to advance this important amendment by first refusing to give the resolution a committee hearing and later denying legislators the right to publicly debate the topic on the House floor. The Indiana House of Representatives, like the Indiana Senate, operates under a set of rules that guide legislative behavior and decorum in order to ensure the process remains open to the public.

Who is to blame?

House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer spit in the face of these rules when he denied Republicans the right to debate SJR 7, as well as a host of other bills, so as to gratify his personal vendetta. House leaders shut off the microphone of Republican legislators, muffling their voices but strengthening their resolve. Republicans walked off the floor in protest, demanding the Speaker adhere to the rules he vowed to protect. Bauer refused and as a result, allowed 91 bills to die.

Who suffered the consequences of the speaker's actions? Every Hoosier struggling to make a living in this dismal economy. Thanks to House Democrats' "leadership," numerous eco-



House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), in the middle, plots his party's next move with staff members. Bauer allowed House business to halt for more than a week due to his dogged attempt to stifle the debate on SJR 7.

nommic development initiatives failed to pass when the democratic process screeched to a halt due to the speaker's stubbornness.

The Economic Impact

No one doubts the state's unfavorable economic climate. You've read the headlines. Overall, the state leads the nation in jobs lost. In January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the state ranked 2nd in the nation in initial jobless claims. The only state that was worse is California.

Clearly, Indiana needs effective leadership to help support existing industry, attract new businesses and create new jobs. The same legislators vigorously defending homosexuals quietly killed a number of bills in the process that promise real change, including Senate Bill 374, which requires the use of blended biodiesel fuel in state vehicles and tractors.

Biodiesel is an alternative energy source made from soybeans, fats or oils. Indiana is one of the leaders in the nation in soybean and corn production. With agricultural prices being unpredictable, SB 374 would boost agriculture across the state by increasing the demand for Indiana soybeans. The bill passed out of the Senate 49-0. Ironically, the measure died because the House Ways and Means Committee failed to give the bill a hearing in time.

The reasons for his decision to stonewall any effort to allow open discussion on the issue revolved around one key factor: the upcoming election.

[Read more about SJR 7](#)

Marriage: One Man, One Woman



House Republican Leader Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis), far right, attempts to speak on the sanctity of marriage. Bauer, far left, refuses to acknowledge Bosma's motion.

Lame Duck Democrats

House Democrats currently maintain a narrow majority over House Republicans. With a 51-49 split, the political make up of the House literally hangs in the balance. By not giving SJR 7 a hearing, no vote took place and thus, no public record exists linking Democrats to an opinion on the issue.

Consequently, one party's lame duck tactics may very well cause the degradation of this country's foundation: the American family.

House Democrats hope citizens forget their recent indiscretions when they go to the polls in November. Clearly, they fear retribution from party officials, but care little about the wants and desires of their constituents. In the end, the actions of House Democrats proved their disrespect for both the institution of marriage and the democratic process.

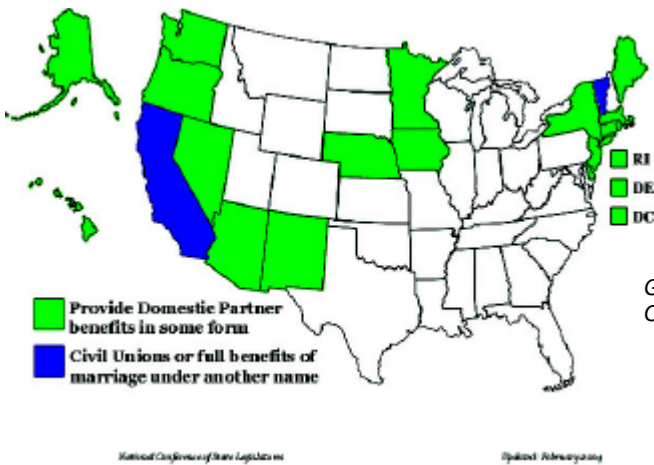
We Must Protect Our Children

In 1998, the Democratic administration opened the door to gay adoptions and completely eliminated the legislature from the process. This action started the implementation of a larger homosexual agenda.

The next step is the legal recognition of a homosexual union. If allowed, schools would then be forced to teach our children about homosexual relationships as a norm. The ultimate goal involves the enlistment of our children. Because they can't reproduce, homosexuals have to recruit!

We must continue to fight back in order to preserve our children's innocence.

Protect the Institution of Marriage



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